

## Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 INSE-00 IO-13 SCS-03

SCA-01 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W

----- 043166

R 071733Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0166

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6562

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, PFOR, PINT, CASC (HORMAN, CHARLES), CI

SUBJECT: W/W AMCIT CHARLES HORMAN; RELEASE OF RAFAEL GONZALEZ  
FAMILY

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 6159, (B) STATE 157145 (C) SANTIAGO 6472,  
(D) STATE 165942

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S  
NOTE OF JULY 2 (REF C) AS A FLAT REFUSAL TO CREDIT RAFAEL  
GONZALEZ' ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE CONVERSATION THAT HE BELIEVES  
LED TO CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH; IT COMMENTS ON GONZALEZ AS AN  
INFORMER, AND ON HIS MENTAL STABILITY (WE INDICATE A NEED  
FOR CAUTION ON THE LAST POINT). IT INDICATES THAT WE HAVE NO  
FIRM REPLY FROM THE GOC ON GONZALEZ' RELEASE OR THAT OF HIS  
FAMILY. THE EMBASSY WILL HOLD OFF FOLLOWING UP ON THE HORMAN  
NOTE, BUT WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN FORMAL GOC AGREEMENT TO  
GONZALEZ' AND HIS FAMILY'S DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE: FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE 26 OF JULY  
2, 1976 (REF C) IN REPLY TO OURS OF JUNE 14 ON THE DEATH OF  
AMCIT CHARLES HORMAN (REF A) FLATLY REFUSED TO CREDIT THE  
STATEMENTS OF RAFAEL GONZALEZ ABOUT THE ALLEGED CIRCUMSTANCES  
WHICH GONZALEZ BELIEVES LED TO THE DEATH OF HORMAN. THE NOTE  
STOOD ON THE GOC'S ORIGINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF THE  
DEATH SENT TO US BY NOTE NUMBER 18557 OF DECEMBER 13, 1973,  
AND CAST DOUBT ON GONZALEZ' VERACITY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY  
NOTE UNDERLINED THAT GENERAL LUTZ IS DEAD (AND THUS NOT  
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ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE ALLEGATIONS) INSINUATING THAT GONZALEZ

NAMED HIM FOR THAT REASON; THAT COLONEL BARRIA "EMPHATICALLY" SAID GONZALEZ' "ACCUSATIONS" WERE FALSE; THAT GONZALEZ WAS NEVER A CHILEAN AIR FORCE OFFICER, AND THAT REPORTS GONZALEZ SUBMITTED AS A "VOLUNTARY AND SEMI-OFFICIAL INFORMER FOR THE INFORMATION SERVICES" WERE "ABSURD AND LACKING IN VERACITY," WHICH LED TO HIS FIRING ON SEPTMMBER 2, 1975.

3. THIS GOC REPLY IS NOT UNEXPECTED. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY VALDES FORECAST IT ON JUNE 23 (REF A). THE EMBASSY WAS AUTHORIZED BY REF B TO FOLLOW UP WITH A NOTE ASKING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EXPLAIN WHY GONZALEZ WAS NAMED TO ACCOMPANY CONSULAR OFFICER JAMES ANDERSON IN LOCATING HORMAN'S BODY. FOR TACTICAL REASONS WE NOW BELIEVE IT BEST TO DELAY THIS FOLLOW UP WHILE WE PURSUE THE RELEASE OF GONZALEZ AND HIS FAMILY.

4. GONZALEZ AS INFORMER OR OFFICER: THE NOTE'S STATMENT THAT GONZALEZ HAD NEVER BEEN AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WILL STRIKE SOME AS GOC DISSEMBLING, BUT WE WOULD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER COLONEL VALDES TOLD US THIS ON JUNE 23 (REF A), THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKEDD THE AIR FORCE FOR CAREFUL CONFIRMATION, WHICH IT RECEIVED. FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS GONZALEZ SHOWED US, WE BELIEVE HE WORKED UNDER COVER IN THE US AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE LATER WORKED IN SOME KIND OF CAPACITY FOR THE GOC IN CHILE -- WHETHER AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT OR SOMETHING MORE PUBLIC -- BUT EVEN HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A "CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE (RESERVE OFFICER)" IN A PERSONAL LETTER OF APRIL 27, 1976, TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET, A COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE TO US ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. NATURALLY THE GOC DENIES ANY ASSERTION THAT GONZALEZ WAS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT.

5. GONZALEZ' MENTAL STABILITY: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON JUNE 23 (REF A) SAID GONZALEZ WAS MENTALLY UNSTABLE. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAVIN TOLD DCM JULY 1 THAT MINISTRY HAD DECIDED NOT TO ALLUDE TO THIS IN THEIR NOTE, SINCE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERPRETED AS SELF-SERVING. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS WAS A WISE DECISION, BUT ALSO THAT GONZALEZ PROBABLY HAS SOME KIND OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTAL IMBALANCE OR FIXATION. HE HAS SHOWN A SHARP INTELLIGENCE AND LUCIDITY IN HIS INTERVIEWS WITH CONSULAR OFFICER, AND ON JULY 6 HE SHOWED HIM LETTERS FROM TWO PSYCHIATRISTS ATTESTING TO HIS MENTAL STABILITY. HIS REPUTATION IN CHILEAN MILITARY CIRCLES NEVERTHELESS IS ONE OF HIGH UNRELIABILITY -- BOTH PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND FROM THE SECURITY VIEWPOINT. WE HAVE HEARD THE SAME FROM A SENIOR CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFICIAL WHO APPEARS TO HAVE ACCESS TO SOME PRIVILEGED GOC INFORMATION.

6. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE GONZALEZ' LETTER TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET OF LAST APRIL (PARA FOUR ABOVE), WHICH TO THE LAYMAN APPEARS TO INDICATE A FIXATION ON HOMOSEXUALS IN THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES. GONZALEZ ATTRIBUTES HIS TROUBLES WITH THE GOC TO HIS ATTEMPTS TO COMBAT THE HOMOSEXUAL "MAFIA," IN WHICH HE INCLUDES SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE CHILEAN ARMY, AIR FORCE, CARABINEROS, CIVIL POLICE AND CORFO, PLUS EX-PRESIDENT ALLENDE AND HIS MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALMEYDA AND DEFENSE TOHA. ASIDE FROM THE GENERAL INCREDIBILITY OF THIS PRESENTATION, ONE OF THE SENIOR ARMY GENERALS LISTED IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS INTENSE AND EXCLUSIVELY HETEROSEXUAL ACTIVITY.

7. THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT ANY STATEMENT FROM GONZALEZ SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CARE.

8. RELEASE OF GONZALEZ AND FAMILY: FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAVIN ON JULY 1 GAVE NO INDICATION THE GOC WOULD RELEASE GONZALEZ. WE GATHER FROM CHILEAN AIR FORCE CIRCLES THAT THIS SERVICE WILL NOT GIVE WAY ON THAT POINT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, LAVIN SAID JULY 1 THAT THE MOTHER AND SON ARE NOT CHARGED, AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE CHILE NORMALLY. HE REFUSED TO GIVE OFFICIAL ASSURANCES, HTWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO.

9. SINCE MRS. GONZALEZ NOW SAYS THAT SHE AND HER SON WILL NOT LEAVE CHILE WITHOUT HER HUSBAND (SEPTTEL), THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP THE AMBASSADOR'S ORAL REQUEST OF JUNE 23 FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S RELEASE WITH A NOTE REQUESTING THE GOC'S FORMAL ASSURANCES THAT THEY CAN DEPART.  
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## Message Attributes

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